

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-44. (canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A tyre for a vehicle wheel, comprising:  
at least one structural element including a crosslinked elastomeric material  
obtained by crosslinking an elastomeric composition comprising:  
at least one diene elastomeric polymer;  
at least one reinforcing filler;  
from 0.05 phr to 10 phr of zinc oxide;  
from 0.1 phr to 20 phr of at least one fatty acid amide; and  
from ~~[[0.1]]~~1 phr to 15 phr of at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid of  
formula R-COOH, wherein R is selected from linear or branched  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl groups, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkenyl groups, C<sub>5</sub>-  
C<sub>24</sub> cycloalkyl groups, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aryl groups, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkylaryl or  
arylalkyl groups.

46. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, comprising:  
a carcass structure;  
a belt structure applied in a circumferentially external position relative to the  
carcass structure;

a tread band superimposed circumferentially on the belt structure; and  
a pair of sidewalls applied laterally on opposite sides relative to the carcass structure;  
wherein the carcass structure comprises at least one carcass ply,  
wherein the at least one carcass ply is shaped in a substantially toroidal configuration,  
wherein opposite lateral edges of the carcass structure are associated with respective bead wires,  
wherein each bead wire is enclosed in a respective bead,  
wherein the belt structure comprises at least one belt strip, and  
wherein the at least one structural element including the crosslinked elastomeric material is the tread band.

47. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 0.1 phr to 6.0 phr of the zinc oxide.

48. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 0.5 phr to 5.0 phr of the zinc oxide.

49. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 0.5 phr to 10 phr of the at least one fatty acid amide.

50. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 2.0 phr to 6.0 phr of the at least one fatty acid amide.

51. (Currently Amended) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from ~~[[0.5]]~~1 phr to 10 phr of the at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid.

52. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 1.0 phr to 5.0 phr of the at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid.

53. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer has a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) below 20° C.

54. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer comprises one or more of: cis-1,4-polyisoprene; 3,4-polyisoprene; polybutadiene; optionally halogenated isoprene/isobutene copolymers; 1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; styrene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; styrene/isoprene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; and styrene/1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers.

55. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition further comprises at least one elastomeric polymer of one or more monoolefins with an olefinic comonomer or derivatives thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 54, wherein the at least one elastomeric polymer of one or more monoolefins comprises one or more of: ethylene/propylene copolymers (EPR) or ethylene/propylene/diene copolymers (EPDM); polyisobutene; butyl rubbers; and halobutyl rubbers.

57. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises one or more of: carbon black; silica; alumina; aluminosilicates; calcium carbonate; and kaolin.

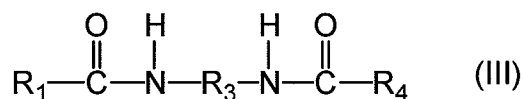
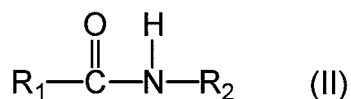
58. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises carbon black.

59. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises silica.

60. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 0.1 phr to 120 phr of the at least one reinforcing filler.

61. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 20 phr to 90 phr of the at least one reinforcing filler.

62. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the at least one fatty acid amide is selected from compounds having the following formulae (II) or (III):



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_4$ , which may be identical or different from each other, are selected from linear or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$  alkyl groups, linear or branched  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$  alkenyl groups,  $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups;

wherein  $\text{R}_3$  is a linear or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkylene group; and

wherein  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen or is selected from linear or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$  alkyl groups, linear or branched  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$  alkenyl groups, or  $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups.

63. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 62, wherein the at least one fatty acid amide comprises one or more of: acetamide, propionamide, n-butyramide, n-valeramide, n-caproamide, stearamide, lauroylamide, miristic amide, arachidamide, behenamide, ethylene-bis-stearamide, and ethylene-bis-oleamide.

64. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 62, wherein the at least one fatty acid amide comprises stearamide.

65. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 45, wherein the carboxylic acid of formula  $R\text{-COOH}$  comprises one or more of:  $C_8\text{-}C_{10}$  coconut acid; stearic acid; lauric acid; oleic acid; octanoic acid; myristic acid; palmitic acid; palmitoleic acid; linoleic acid; benzoic acid; chlorobenzoic acid; methylbenzoic acid; and naphthyl acid.

66. (Currently Amended) A tyre tread band including a crosslinkable elastomeric composition, the composition comprising:

at least one diene elastomeric polymer;

at least one reinforcing filler;

from 0.05 phr to 10 phr of zinc oxide;

from 0.1 phr to 20 phr of at least one fatty acid amide; and

from  $[[0.1]]1$  phr to 15 phr of at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid of formula  $R\text{-COOH}$ , wherein R is selected from linear or branched  $C_1\text{-}C_{24}$  alkyl groups, linear or branched  $C_2\text{-}C_{24}$  alkenyl groups,  $C_5\text{-}C_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups,  $C_6\text{-}C_{24}$  aryl groups,  $C_7\text{-}C_{24}$  alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups.

67. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 0.1 phr to 6.0 phr of the zinc oxide.

68. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the zinc oxide (c) is added to the elastomeric composition in an amount of from 0.5 phr to 5.0 phr.

69. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 0.5 phr to 10 phr of the at least one fatty acid amide.

70. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 2.0 phr to 6.0 phr of the at least one fatty acid amide.

71. (Currently Amended) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from ~~[[0.5]]~~1 phr to 10 phr of the at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid.

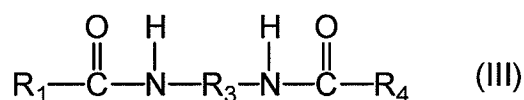
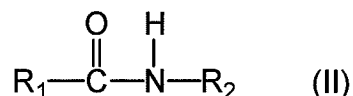
72. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises from 1.0 phr to 5.0 phr of the at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid.

73. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer comprises one or more of: cis-1,4-polyisoprene; 3,4-polyisoprene; polybutadiene; optionally halogenated isoprene/isobutene copolymers;

1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; styrene/1,3-butadiene copolymers;  
styrene/isoprene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; and styrene/1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile  
copolymers.

74. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the at least  
one reinforcing filler comprises one or more of: carbon black; silica; alumina;  
aluminosilicates; calcium carbonate; and kaolin.

75. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the at least  
one fatty acid amide is selected from compounds having the following formulae (II) or  
(III):



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_4$ , which may be identical or different from each other, are  
selected from linear or branched  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  alkyl groups, linear or branched  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  alkenyl  
groups,  $\text{C}_5$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups;

wherein  $\text{R}_3$  is a linear or branched  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{10}$  alkylene group; and

wherein  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen or is selected from linear or branched  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  alkyl  
groups, linear or branched  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  alkenyl groups, or  $\text{C}_5$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups.



76. (Previously Presented) The tyre tread band of claim 66, wherein the carboxylic acid of formula R-COOH comprises one or more of: C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> coconut acid; stearic acid; lauric acid; oleic acid; octanoic acid; myristic acid; palmitic acid; palmitoleic acid; linoleic acid; benzoic acid; chlorobenzoic acid; methylbenzoic acid; and naphthyl acid.

77. (Currently Amended) An elastomeric composition, comprising:  
at least one diene elastomeric polymer;  
at least one reinforcing filler;  
from 0.05 phr to 10 phr of zinc oxide;  
from 0.1 phr to 20 phr of at least one fatty acid amide; and  
from ~~[[0.1]]~~1 phr to 15 phr of at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid of formula R-COOH, wherein R is selected from linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl groups, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkenyl groups, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> cycloalkyl groups, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aryl groups, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups.

78. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, comprising from 0.1 phr to 6.0 phr of the zinc oxide.

79. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, comprising from 0.5 phr to 5.0 phr of the zinc oxide.

80. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, comprising from 0.5 phr to 10 phr of the at least one fatty acid amide.

81. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, comprising from 2.0 phr to 6.0 phr of the at least one fatty acid amide.

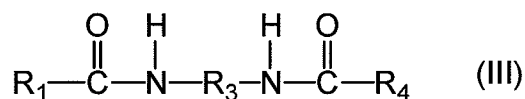
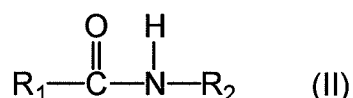
82. (Currently Amended) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, comprising from ~~[[0.5]]~~1 phr to 10 phr of the at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid.

83. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, comprising from 1.0 phr to 5.0 phr of the at least one zinc salt of a carboxylic acid.

84. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer comprises one or more of: cis-1,4-polyisoprene; 3,4-polyisoprene; polybutadiene; optionally halogenated isoprene/isobutene copolymers; 1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; styrene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; styrene/isoprene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; and styrene/1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers.

85. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises one or more of: carbon black; silica; alumina; aluminosilicates; calcium carbonate; and kaolin.

86. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one fatty acid amide is selected from compounds having the following formulae (II) or (III):



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_4$ , which may be identical or different from each other, are selected from linear or branched  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  alkyl groups, linear or branched  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  alkenyl groups,  $\text{C}_5$ - $\text{C}_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups;

wherein  $R_3$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkylene group; and

wherein  $R_2$  is hydrogen or is selected from linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl groups, linear or branched  $C_2$ - $C_{24}$  alkenyl groups, or  $C_5$ - $C_{24}$  cycloalkyl groups.

87. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 77, wherein the carboxylic acid of formula  $R$ -COOH comprises one or more of:  $C_8$ - $C_{10}$  coconut acid; stearic acid; lauric acid; oleic acid; octanoic acid; myristic acid; palmitic acid; palmitoleic acid; linoleic acid; benzoic acid; chlorobenzoic acid; methylbenzoic acid; and naphthyl acid.

88. (Previously Presented) A crosslinked elastomeric manufactured product obtained by crosslinking the elastomeric composition of claim 77.